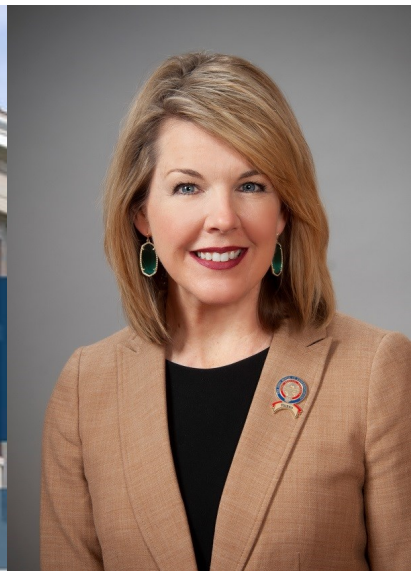




A legislative update from  
**STATE REP. ALLISON RUSSO**  
HOUSE DISTRICT 07



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 @OHHouseDems  
 @ohiohousedems



**From the desk of Rep. Russo**

Dear Neighbor,

Happy Fall, Ohio! If you haven't yet, now is the perfect time to schedule a flu shot and Covid booster! Visit [vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov) to find a vaccine provider near you.

As we draw closer to another election, Ohioans are again faced with an opportunity to confront the state's [heavily gerrymandered districts](#). Ohioans deserve leaders that reflect their values truthfully and who will fulfill their promise to respect the will of the voters. This is why I will be voting YES on Issue 1.

Now, on another important issue: property taxes. I hear from constituents every day who are struggling with skyrocketing costs. These increases aren't due to local officials, they are the result of years of Republican policies that favor the wealthiest Ohioans while burdening working families. House Democrats are fighting for fairer tax policies that will provide real relief to homeowners, renters, and seniors. Instead of the [\\$5 billion in tax cuts for the wealthiest](#) Ohioans, that money could have been used to lower property taxes for everyone. It's time for action, and Ohioans deserve leaders who will deliver solutions that reflect their values. Below are just some of the bills that have been introduced to help lower your property taxes:

- [Property Tax Freeze](#) — **HB 263**  
Freezes property taxes for qualified homeowners.
- [Enhanced Homestead Exemption](#) — **HB 274**  
For individuals who qualify and have owned their homes for more than 20 years, this bill increases the exemption from \$26,200 to \$50,000.

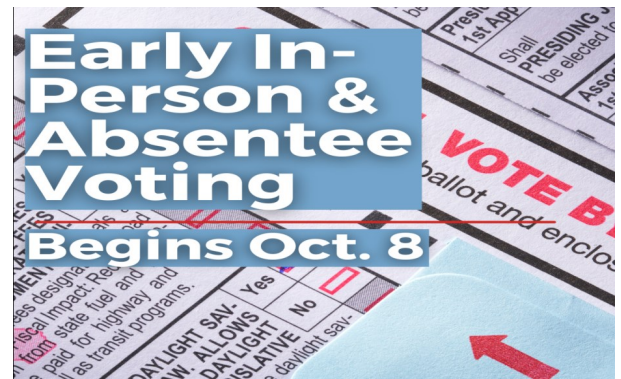
I am proud to be your state representative. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

C. Allison Russo  
State Representative  
Ohio House District 7



Every day, [more than 700 women in the U.S.](#) are diagnosed with breast cancer. House Democrats will continue to support legislation that defends the opportunity to receive the life-saving healthcare they need. Learn more about breast cancer prevention and early detection at [odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs](https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs).



Early in-person and mail voting for the General Election begins on **October 8**. Visit [voteohio.gov](https://voteohio.gov) to request an absentee ballot, see early vote times, find your voting location, view ID requirements, and more!

**Other Important Dates**

- **October 29:**  
Absentee ballot applications must be received by your board of elections by 8:30 p.m.
- **November 5:** Election Day  
Polls open 6:30 am-7:30 pm





## Ohio House Democrats Introduce Resolution Supporting Issue 1

Last week, Ohio House Democrats [introduced a resolution to express support for Issue 1](#), the citizen-led ballot initiative to end partisan gerrymandering in Ohio. This resolution—to support a nonpartisan solution by Ohioans for Ohioans—is necessary to counteract the misleading narratives surrounding the ballot initiative.

### What the Amendment Does

If passed, Issue 1 will replace the currently politician-dominated Redistricting Commission with a 15-member board of Ohio citizens made up of Republican, Democrat, and Independent voters. **Politicians** (both current and recent), **lobbyists**, and people with **strong political ties** will be **banned** from joining the commission. Maps will be required to be drawn using an open and independent process, and maps manipulated to discriminate against or favor any political party or politician will be made illegal.



### Why Issue 1 Matters

Ohioans have made their voices clear on this issue, with more than 70% voting against gerrymandering in both 2015 and 2018. Yet when Ohio courts ruled **seven times** that district maps passed by politicians under the current system were unconstitutional, these politicians continued to ignore the courts and the will of Ohioans by manipulating outcomes in secret backroom deals. Allowing politicians to choose their voters undermines the impact of citizens to choose the policies that affect them, and these [exploited maps have subverted the values of Ohio voters for years](#). As a result, [Ohio is one of the most gerrymandered states in the nation](#).

This resolution shows support for the more than 700,000 Ohioans who signed the petition to get the citizen-led initiative on the ballot, which would eliminate partisan gerrymandering by placing the redistricting process in the hands of Ohio citizens rather than politicians and paid lobbyists.



## In the District

September presented an opportunity to prepare for the winter months and engage with many of Ohio's policy advocates. Some notable stops in the district included:

- Listening to the needs of families and children, Rep. Russo toured the childcare facility at Easterseals to learn about the opportunities provided by the Early Intervention Program.
- Meeting with Miami University's Government Relations Network, Rep. Russo shared her experiences as a legislator with Ohio's next generation of leaders.
- Learning about the experiences and expertise of Ohio's infant vitality advocates, Rep. Russo focused on the issues surrounding infant mortality rates.
- Speaking with The Ohio State University's John Glenn students at the statehouse, Rep. Russo discussed the theory and real-world application of Ohio politics.
- Engaging with the Buckeye Association of School Administrators, Rep. Russo welcomed Ohio's first-year superintendents and offered advice on their advocacy needs.
- Attending Central State University's Political Science panel, Rep. Russo discussed student reactions to today's political landscape.



## October News from Rep. Russo

For all news from Rep. Russo's office, please visit: <https://ohiohouse.gov/members/c-allison-russo/news>